Extension of Bilaspur Airport

2829. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to upgrade Raipur airport into international airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider extending runways with additional parking bays at Raipur and Bilaspur airports with sufficient infrastructure and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would provide additional flights from Raipur and Bilaspur to Delhi and connect other major cities and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of steps taken by Government to connect Raipur, Durg, Bhilai and Korba with other major cities of Madhya Pradesh and Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a proposal for extension of runway upto 7500 feet and associated pavements including apron at Raipur airport. AAI has no plan to upgrade infrastructure facility at Bilaspur airport due to non-receipt of demand from any schedule airline to operate regular services through Bilaspur.

(d) and (e) Airlines are free to commence new air service or provide additional services from any airport in any sector in India based on the commercial viability, availability of aircraft etc. subject to route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government in this regard.

Catering expenses of IA

2830. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the catering expenses of the Indian Airlines are abnormally high; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to reduce the expenditure on catering especially in the case of short route sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Speedy clearance of passengers at airports

2831. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that all the major airports in India are very much congested and passengers find it difficult to pass through the security checks as the facilities are very limited; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to reduce the pressure and speedy clearance of the passengers in the airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) During the peak hours, at some major airports, capacity constraints are being experienced in the terminals. With a view to reducing congestion, steps are taken from time to time to provide additional equipments such as X-ray machines and manpower. Further to reduce long queues and congestion, a system of Single Agency for X-raying of Registered baggage has been introduced on experimental basis at IGI Airport, New Delhi and CSI Airport, Mumbai.

Price negotiations with Boeing Corporation

2832. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether price negotiations for the purchase of Boeing aircrafts has since been completed with the Boeing Corporation;

(b) if so, the conclusions about actual price of the aircraft indicating the final cost to be incurred on the purchase; and

(c) the other relevant terms of the purchase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.